THE FREE PRESS BULLETIN

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FALSE FEARS

Governor Harekrushna Mahtab's advice to India and China that the two countries should guard against getting caught once again in the "Western trap" is perhaps unnecessary today. Some eight years ago in China and five years ago in India there were signs of this danger when Chiang Kai-shek had not yet been completely routed by the Chinese people and when attempts were being made in fairly high quarters in New Delhi to entice India into the Western bloc. Today China is firmly committed to the Soviet bloc and India is the acknowledged leader of a growing number of countries which follow a policy of free neutrality and active co-existence with the two mighty blocs still engaged in a cold war.

Inaugurating the second Bombay Conference of the India-China Friendship Association in the city yesterday, the Governor also advised the two countries how they should go about developing their national economies—rather, how they should not go about this task. The former Minister for Commerce and Industry, who is as well acquainted with business practices in the West as he is with its political practices (and, therefore, with the relation between the two), told his audience that India and China should guard themselves against the influence of the West. He urged them to develop in such a way as to manage their affairs

Gaslight Gossip

Dietary Politics

Shri M. S. M. Sarma, Editor of the "Searchlight" (a Patna daily), whose 95 out of 175 employees are on strike since February 3, commenced a three-day fast today for "self-purification and purification of his fellow workers." The striking employees of the "Searchlight" are demanding that they should be assured of regular payment of wages and salaries and that there should be no victimisation for trade union activities.—News Item.

Sarmaji of "Searchlight" has joined the growing band of Indians who believe that skipping 'khana' for a few days is the most effective way of gaining one's ends, whatever they be. This belief in the cause and effect relationship between dietary control and external change has always intrigued us. As a working journalist, we find the Patna case even more intriguing.

As the Press Trust of India relates the incident, we infer that the newspaper which Shri Sarma edits has not been paying wages regularly to those who produce the paper. We also infer that there is some trade union activity—which is not at all strange considering the circumstances—and that those who are rash enough to participate in it are being victimised by those who own or manage the paper. There appears to be a prima facie case for Shri Sarma to purify himself, and for the sake of those who have been, or are at present being, victimised and not [illegible] paid regularly [illegible] three-day [illegible] trick.

But Sarmaji's [illegible] pears, is [illegible] He hopes [illegible]

IN THE LIMELIGHT

"INDIA is a land of marvels. But the greatest marvel is the effort of her people to build a new life," said Mr. Ilya Ehrenburg, noted Soviet writer, who is currently touring the country.

Although India is an old country, having a long and glorious history, its people are youthful and are tackling the problems before the country with courage and determination, he thinks.

In his opinion India has both the experience of age and the energy of youth to solve her problems.

Ehrenburg had an informal discussion with Pressmen in the city early this week and talked to them about a number of subjects including war, peace —and, of course—literature.

As a doughty partisan of peace, he made a spirited plea for peace and for friendly relations among the countries of the world. He was all admiration for the great efforts made by the Indian people for peace.

Ehrenburg was at his best when he answered questions on literature. He frankly expressed his opinion that none could write successfully unless he or she lived a full life. His advice to young novelists is: "Live your novels before you write them".

He complained that in the Soviet Union young writers [illegible]d become famous in a short [illegible] because of the encouragement they got from the State [illegible] the people. But many of [illegible]em gave up their professions [illegible] live by the pen, with results [illegible]t were not very happy.

looking carefully into the details of a family wedding, Principal Mehta is giving final touches to the programme, being chalked by the college for the centenary.

He is taking great pains to make the celebrations a grand success. Those who know the hardworking, sincere man that he is, need not be surprised by this.

Principal Mehta is known as the principal with many 'firsts.' Since his school days he has always stood first in examination. He got first class in all his college examinations and stood first class first in his B.A. examination, securing the coveted Ellis Prize in English.

After a brilliant career in legal studies, he entered the legal profession where he impressed his fraternity by passing both the solicitors' and advocates' examinations simultaneously in the first attempt.

After practising for more than a decade at the Bombay High Court, he joined the Government Law College as Professor of Law and English. In 1944, his services were loaned to the Government of India. His excellent work as the National Savings Commissioner won him appreciation from all. He was the first Indian to hold that post, and ably organised the national savings movement in the country.

He came back to his old surroundings in 1950. He acted as principal in 1952-53, and became the principal [illegible] 1954.

sources of both these countries are so great that there should be no difficulty whatsoever in building them up without outside assistance. Here again the Bombay Governor was, it appears to us, barging through an open door.

Both China and India today are not only developing their economies independently of the West but also independently of each other. Indeed, the whole theme of Shri Mahtab's discourse yesterday suggests that he has been left far behind by the rush of events in both countries.

The fears which apparently assail Shri Mahtab today were quashed in India some years ago. The country has moved forward at a fairly rapid rate during the First Five-Year Plan period and the contours of the Second Plan revealed in the draft published yesterday suggest that the country will continue to develop independently and at a swifter pace. Happily, there are signs all around us that Shri Mahtab's further call to the people to concentrate attention on the present and the future, instead of harking back to our "glorious past", has already been answered. If there is constant reference to our past achievements, it is largely restricted to inaugural addresses made by Governors and Ministers. The people are seized of their immediate problems and continue to grapple with them.

What is significant in the Governor's address to the India-China Friendship Association is his advice that India should eschew "outside assistance" in developing the country. The draft of the Second Plan provides for such aid to the extent of Rs. 800 crores, principally in the form of trade credits for steel plants or other industrial undertakings. Since there is no question whatsoever of India accepting foreign assistance on any conditions which impinge on our sovereign rights, the raising of these Rs. 800 crores for partial financing of the Plan will not prevent India from developing independently. But the Governor means well and his advice is clearly motivated by his nationalist sentiment.

the news
We are no
tion of th
has in
purify
or the
both? And
tor's heart is large enough to be oppressed by the impurity of his "fellow workers", it should surely be big enough to consider the soul of the management. Why has the poor management been left out. After all the country has already entered the era of workers' participation in management of industry. Should management be denied the opportunity of being purified through Working Journalist, Sarma's self-imposed dietary ordeal?

By ignoring the legitimate right —the right to purification— of management, Sarmaji has left himself wide open to the charge of being anti-national, indeed subversive. As one working journalist to another fasting editor, we must tell Sarmaji plainly that he has committed the unforgivable sin of ignoring what the Prime Minister has said so often and so well. To wit, we must rid ourselves of the shackles of casteism, communalism, provincialism, linguism. Equally, if not more, important, we must rid ourselves of antiquated ideas of class-ism. Now that the draft of the Second Five-Year Plan has been announced it should be clear to all Indians that, in the emerging socialistic pattern of society, there is no room for outmoded categories like Capital and Labour or Workers and Management. Shri Sarma has chosen to ignore this message from New Delhi by leaving out Management from his scheme of things. He must surely realise that this is an unprofitable venture which may well damage the cause dear to his heart, a cause, which, in the nature of things, should be dear to all 100 per cent Indian nationalists who are nonetheless working journalists.

And Finally...

BULLETIN Philosopher says: "All fasts succeed—in reducing the waistline."

ing left for the second
, having exhausted all their
ertoire in the first. He ex-
sed the view that the best
o encourage young writ-
was not to keep the door
wide open for them, nor to
close it too tightly.

Ehrenburg, who has suffered so much during the war for the sake of freedom and peace, has still got, at his advanced age, the enthusiasm and energy of a young man. He is full of wit and humour. It is delightful to talk to him.

His visit has certainly helped us to understand his country better.

Principal Mehta

BUSY with the centenary celebrations of the Government Law College is Principal K. R. Mehta, the popular chief of the college. Like a grandmother

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After taking over his new job, he revitalised the college. It was he who started morning classes for students who wanted to earn and learn and who could not afford the luxury of a fulltime college.

The Dramatic Club the college magazine, and the annual sports meet are only a few of his numerous achievements.

DADA'S Column

Qn: Why is Chinese food more tastier than Indian food?
—J. S. KUCHREJA.

Ans: May be to you, but not to all. So how can I say why it tastes better to you.

* * *

Qn: Why does your column stages some wonderful disappearances these days?
—QUESTIONER.

Ans: Due to shortage of space, I have thought it better to reply you only on certain days of the week.

* * *

Qn: Please let me know where I can see His Eminence Cardinal Gracias, the Archbishop of Bombay.
—ANAND.

Ans: At the Bishop's house, Wodehouse Road, when he is in city.

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Qn: Why does Nehru try to befriend every one. Is he afraid of any one?
—ANGELO PEREIRA.

Ans: Because he knows that the best way to get on in this world peacefully is to be friendly with all.

* * *

Qn: Why do parents curse their sons now-a-days?
—JOHN TRAVASO.

Ans: As far as I know, no parent will curse a dutiful son. Why? Does your parent curse you?

* * *

Qn: What must I do when my school friends become my enemies? Should I tell the teacher, or should I bite them all.
—AGNELO PAREIRA.

Ans: If all the boys in your school are your enemies, there must be something wrong with you. Try to find out what the trouble really is. And if you still think you are right, just neglect them. Stick on to what you think is right.

* * *

Qn: On January 19, I was out on the road in Girgaum. Because of the curfew I was not allowed to pass that way. I wished I could get the help of your grandson. But unfortunately I did not know his address. At least now, will you kindly let me have the address?
—KUMARI MALAD.

Ans: Who told you, I have a grandson?

* * *

Qn: I would like to meet great leaders like Shri Nehru and speak to them personally. How is it possible?
—ABINASH M. F. D.

Ans: Shri Nehru is too busy with other things now. Write to Shri Nehru's Personal Secretary.

* * *

Qn: If Shri Tilak, the only Maharashtrian leader, was alive, would he not have felt sorry for the Maharashtrians?
—P. T. SUVARNA.

Ans: In more than one way, what you say is true.

* * *

Qn: Is it true that you answer most of the questions that Kaka gets in the "Between You and Me" column of the Bharat Jyoti?
—QUESTIONER.

Ans: Dada is too busy with his own questioners that he has no time to intrude into Kaka's sphere.
—DADA.

Kutty Menon

THE Army is perhaps the last place where art can thrive. The rugged men of the Armed Forces can hardly be expected to take delight in such unsoldierlike things like drawing and painting. Indeed, very few soldiers would give up the gun for the brush.

Thirty-one-year-old K. K. Kutty Menon, the young soldier-painter is, however, an exception to this. He joined the Army at the age of 17, but never dreamed that he would one day be a painter. While in the Army, he pursued painting as a hobby and never thought seriously about it.

It was only when he sent some of his paintings to an Army Art Exhibition that his talent came to light. Gen. K. M. Cariappa, the then Commander-in-Chief, "discovered" the talented young man and sent him to the J.J. School of Arts to satisfy his zest for things beautiful.

At the school, he distinguished himself by securing first class in the Government Art Examination. He also won the first prize in the Dolly Cursotji Competitive Test and was awarded a medal and a cash prize of Rs. 600.

Young Kutty has the ambition to go abroad to pursue his love for art. One does not know whether the artist in Kutty will finally get the better of the soldier in him. Time alone will show.

R. G. Desai.